

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /061 W

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P R 120945Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL GENOA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NAPLES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1175

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS GENOA 0106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, IT

SUBJ: US NAVY ASSISTANCE IN RESCUE OF STRICKEN FERRYBOAT
PASSENGERS

NAPLES PLEASE PASS SIXTH FLEET COMMAND

1. CONGEN HAS GIVEN FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE TRANSLATED INTO
ITALIAN TO LOCAL ANSA OFFICE AND LOCALLY RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS
OF LA STAMPA AND CORRIERE DELLA SERA:

US NAVY SEAMEN ASSIST IN RESCUE OF PASSENGERS OF
STRICKEN FERRYBOAT AT GENOA

PROMPT RESCUE ACTION BY TWO USS COLUMBUS UTILITY BOATS IN THE
PORT OF GENOA DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 12
CONTRIBUTED TO THE RESCUE OF PASSENGERS OF A LARGE FERRYBOAT
WHICH LISTED PRECARIOUSLY SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING THE PIER.

THE TWO US UTILITY BOATS WERE CARRYING SEAMEN FROM THE SHORE
TO THE CRUISER WHICH WAS ANCHORED OUTSIDE THE PORT WHEN THE
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ACCIDENT OCCURRED BECAUSE OF A SUDDEN SHIFT IN THE FERRY S LOAD

OF TRAILERS AND MOTOR VEHICLES. THE AMERICAN BOATS WERE AMONG THE FIRST ON THE SCENE PICKING UP PASSENGERS WHO HAD THROWN THEMSELVES INTO THE WATER IN PANIC THAT THE BOAT WOULD CAPSIZE COMPLETELY. THE RESCUED PASSENGERS WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE SHORE WHERE NAVY MEDICAL CORPSMEN ASSISTED IN RENDERING FIRST AID AT THE PORT AND DURING TRANSPORT TO THE HOSPITAL. THE CAPTAIN AS WELL AS MANY OF THE 120 PASSENGERS RESCUED GAVE HIGH PRAISE TO THE AMERICAN SEAMEN ATTRIBUTING THEIR RESCUE TO THE NAVY'S PROMPT ACTION. APPARENTLY, THERE WERE NO FATALITIES OR SERIOUS INJURIES. THE FERRY WAS BOUND FOR SICILY.

2. NATIONAL RADIO NEWS BROADCAST AT 0830 HOURS LOCAL TIME HIGHLIGHTED US NAVY ROLE. CORRIERE MERCANTILE, GENOA'S ONLY AFTERNOON DAILY PLANNING TO DO LIKEWISE. BRUNO

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